

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Official Action dated 25 August 2004 has been carefully considered, along with cited references, applicable sections of the Patent Act, Patent Rules.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Trachtenberg.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is significantly different from that of the cited arts as can be seen from their respective structures. Applicant's invention as specified in the amended claims 1 and 2 is patentably distinguishable over these references when taken either singularly or in combination for the following reasons:

The Examiner cites Trachtenberg as an example disclosing a soap device comprising sheets of flexible netting-like material 14 (see Figure 4) and a soap material (see abstract line 7).

However, actually, in Trachtenberg, as disclosed in col. 2, lines 44-52, the bathing implement includes a toy component 12, a sponge component 14, and a loop component 16. The toy component 12 can be foam, polyester, PVC, terry cloth, soap, or like material Alternatively, a standard bar of soap or a container 18, 20 of liquid soap, shampoo or lotion, can be utilized in place of the toy component 12. Container 18 and 20 are illustrated in FIGS. 4 and 5.

As shown in FIGS. 2, 4, and 5, the toy component 12 is separated from the sponge component 14, and is required to be attached or coupled to the sponge component 14 with the loop component 16. The toy component 12 is not and may not be

embedded within the sponge component 14.

Every time, when it is required to use the soap material, the users have to open the container 18, 20, and then pour the liquid soap, shampoo or lotion into the sponge component 14, such that the users may not readily use the soap material.

By contrast, in Applicant's invention, as amended in the amended claims 1 and 2, the soap material (30) is engaged into the perforations (23) of the first and the at least one second sheet of flexible netting-like materials (20), and cured and embedded within the first and the at least one second sheet of flexible netting-like materials (20) to form the soap device, and to allow the soap material (30) to be gradually released from the first and the at least one second sheet of flexible netting-like materials (20).

It is to be noted that two or more sheets of flexible netting-like materials (20) may be secured together by the soap material (30) that is cured and embedded within the flexible netting-like materials (20), but may be removed or separated from each other after the soap material (30) in one or some of the flexible netting-like materials (20) has been consumed or used up, to further allow the soap material (30) to be gradually released from the flexible netting-like materials (20).

The cited art fail to teach a soap material (30) engaged into perforations (23) of first and the at least one second sheet of flexible netting-like materials (20), and cured and embedded within the first and the at least one second sheet of flexible netting-like materials (20) to form a soap device, and to allow the soap material (30) to be gradually released from the first and the at least one second sheet of

flexible netting-like materials (20). The applicant's invention is different from that of the cited arts and has improved over the cited arts.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably distinguishable over the cited arts and that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Courtesy and cooperation of Examiner DEVORE are appreciated.

respectfully submitted,

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